



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE MURPHY

Dear Neighbor,

We've just wrapped up another session here at the Indiana Statehouse: ten weeks drafting, debating, discussing and voting on new and changed laws aimed at helping Hoosiers and streamlining government.

Above all else, you should be able to trust your elected officials. That's why this session I co-authored a major ethics law which will tighten restrictions on the way legislators interact with companies and people who may try to influence their votes.

I also co-authored a law which will allow employees with gun carry permits to keep their firearms locked in their car while at work and helped lead a successful movement to ban newspapers from publishing the personal information of gun owners.

Most importantly, you will now have the chance to vote in November on whether to have property tax caps in the Indiana Constitution.

I'm always looking for your ideas. Contact me at h90@in.gov with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Mike Murphy



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2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MIKE MURPHY

CREATING HOOSIER JOBS



I voted for legislation that authorizes the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of the Illiana Expressway in Northwest Indiana and the Ohio River Bridges project in Southern Indiana. These two projects have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs. Other job friendly legislation I voted for was the New Employer Tax Credit which allows new businesses that locate in Indiana starting January 1, 2010 to receive a tax credit for two years equal to 10% of the wages paid for each newly created job. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.



INCREASING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

I co-authored legislation to strengthen the ethics laws of state government. One of the major provisions is the mandatory “cooling off period,” where legislators must wait at least one year after leaving office until they can become a registered lobbyist. Another provision lowers the threshold for reporting gifts to legislators from \$100 to \$50. This measure will help boost public trust in state government and improve transparency in the lobbying process.

CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government’s budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means. Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was thrilled that there were no new taxes passed this session.

CAPPING GOVERNMENT’S GRASP ON YOUR TAXES



One of my top priorities this session was protecting Hoosier taxpayers. I first voted to pass property tax caps in 2008 and am thrilled that taxpayers will have the opportunity to vote in November on approving this change to the Indiana Constitution. Constitutional property tax caps will ensure the permanency of the property tax reforms begun in 2008. I also voted to delay the Unemployment Insurance tax increase which would have increased taxes on more than 72,000 employers that own a small business that employs anywhere from 1-49 employees.



HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS

I supported giving senior citizens, and all Hoosiers, the ability to vote to constitutionally cap their property tax bills to no more than 1% of their home’s assessed value. Additionally, it is now clear that senior citizens are able to receive both the senior citizen’s property tax deduction and the supplemental standard deduction. I also voted to have courts work through established programs when appointing advocates for incapacitated persons over the age of 55.



BOOSTING SMALL BUSINESSES

I voted to delay a \$350 million tax increase on nearly 80,000 Hoosier employers, more than 72,000 of which were small businesses with 1-49 employees. This tax increase was passed last year without my support. I also voted to remove the employee threshold on the EDGE tax credit for job retention. Previously the threshold required an employer to have at least 35 employees in order to be eligible for the tax credit but now small businesses will also be eligible for this incentive.



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

I co-authored legislation that I believe will help Hoosiers to protect themselves on the commute to and from work. Starting July 1, most employers will be prohibited from having policies that prevent their employees from keeping a legally owned firearm locked in their vehicle while they are at work. Governmental units will also be prohibited from denying a licensed gun owner their 2nd Amendment right during a time of a declared emergency. Additionally, I voted to keep certain personal information about Hoosiers with licenses to carry a handgun confidential.